

In the specification:

Page 2, delete the paragraph beginning on line 1 and substitute the following paragraph, there for:

--Prior to the present invention, saddle pads and such items were made primarily from a single or multiple types of padding material such as wool, felt, open and closed cell foams, gels, honeycombed plastics, neoprene or a variety of other materials, in an effort to provide cushioning between the animal and the load being applied to its back. Horse blankets were made primarily from woolen or synthetic materials to allow for protection from dirt, mud, moisture, and to provide a degree of thermal protection from outside elements. Saddle girths have primarily been made from leather, wool, or a variety of synthetic materials including foam and neoprene to provide a firm attachment of a saddle to the horse's back. Saddle cushions have been made from a variety of materials as well, including leather, suede, gels, and open and closed cell foams, with the primary focus of providing protection and comfort for the rider's anatomy when seated in the saddle. Some of the cushions have been incorporated into the construction of the saddle itself. Saddles have previously been made from leather or synthetic materials and are designed to provide a secure seat on the animal's back for the rider.--

Page 6, delete the paragraph beginning on line 14 and substitute the following paragraph, there for:

--In various embodiments of the present invention a commercially-available material known in the art as phase-change material (PCM) is used in combination with various other materials to provide superior performance for various products in equestrian use. These products include saddle pads for interposing between a horse's flesh and a saddle, saddle seat pads for interposing between a saddle and a rider, horse blankets, and girth pads, among others.--

Page 6, delete the paragraph beginning on line 19 and substitute the following paragraph, there for:

-- In descriptions of embodiments of the invention below, considerable reference is made to "equestrian", and to horses and the use of such products for horses and riders. It should be understood that all descriptions are exemplary of the invention in various forms, and that the invention may be used in many embodiments for animals other than horses; mules, donkeys, camels, oxen, and many others come to mind.--

Page 10, delete the paragraph beginning on line 1 and substitute the following paragraph, three for:

-- Fig. 4 is a cross-section of a composite 401 in another embodiment of the present invention, particularly useful as a saddle pad. Layer 402 is wool, disposed to be next to the animal's flesh. Layer 403 is PCM-bearing material. Layer 404 is anti-bacterial batting. Layer 405 is a shock absorbing material, such as an open-celled foam, a visco-elastic material, a gel material, or a closed-cell foam. Visco-elastic or open-celled material is preferred, in at least 7-pound weight, as these materials allow circulation and provide good shock absorbency. Layer 406 is another layer of batting. In a preferred embodiment the construction is such that the two layers of batting are provided as a pocket with a zipper or other closure, such that the shock absorbing material may be removed, so the rest may be laundered. Layer 407 is a canvas or other non-skid type material.--